

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 22 November 2005 (Paper No. 11152005) has been carefully considered. Claims 11 thru 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are allowed, and prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *ex parte Quayle*. The application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters discussed below.

Claims 21 thru 30 are being canceled without prejudice of disclaimer, and claim 31 is being added. Thus, claims 11 thru 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 31 are pending in the application.

Drawings

The Examiner requires inclusion of the claimed combination of claims 11 and 18 in the drawings. Specifically, the Examiner requires that the unit having second means comprising a socket type clip, as cited in claim 11, and the first means having a bolt, as cited in claim 18, must be shown together in the drawings. Alternatively, the Examiner suggests that these features could be canceled from the claims by amendment. However, as a further alternative, the Examiner suggests that new dependent claim 31 be added, dependent claim 31 being identical to dependent claim 18 but being dependent from independent claim 20.

Accordingly, new dependent claim 31, as suggested by the Examiner, is being added. Thus, dependent claim 31 should now be allowed for the same reason that independent claim 20 (from which claim 31 depends) is allowed.

However, Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement to cancel dependent claim 18 for the following reasons. On page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner admits that “the drawings show both of these features separately” (quoting from page 2, line 11 of the Office action). Thus, the drawings do show every feature of claim 18 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). There is no requirement, under the latter rule, that all features of a claim be shown in a single figure of the drawings; the rule only requires that the drawing “show every feature of the invention specified in the claims” (quoting from 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a)). Moreover, the last paragraph of the specification of this application states that, “[a]lthough the invention has been shown and described with respect to the preferred embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims”.

In the latter regard, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art, upon reviewing the specification of the present application, would realize (especially after reading the last paragraph of the specification) that the invention encompasses not only embodiments wherein the first and second connecting means are identical in structure (as shown in Figures 1 thru 3), but also arrangements wherein the first and second connecting means are not identical.


Restriction

Of all pending claims 11 thru 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20 thru 30, claims 11-13, 15, 17, 18 and 20 are allowed. The Examiner states that the application is in condition for allowance except for claims 21 thru 30 which are drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 21 thru 30 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


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